

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 6-12 are pending in the application. Claim 8 has been withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 3-5 have been canceled. New claims 11 and 12 have been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claims 1-3 and 6-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nobuyuki (JP 10321354) in view of Hosokawa (USP 6,623,563). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations recited in claims 3 and 4, and also defines that the skeletal member has "a plurality of holes in a form of a lattice pattern."

Nobuyuki discloses a heating plate 1 having heating element tubes 2 sandwiched between a pair of reinforcing material 3b. The heating element tubes 2 and the reinforcing material 3b (corresponds to the "skeletal member" of the claimed invention of the present application) insertingly cast by a base metallic material 3a. The reinforcing material 3b has a melting point higher than the base metallic material 3a.

In Nobuyuki, the reinforcing material 3b is made of ceramic fiber in a form of textile, unwoven cloth, whisker, a collection of particles, or a porous member. The reinforcing material 3b of Nobuyuki, however, is not in "a form of a lattice pattern" as

recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Nobuyuki does not disclose or even suggest the "skeletal member" as recited in claim 1.

Hosokawa discloses susceptor 111 having a support frame 117 inside an exterior material 116. The support frame 117 comprising a second material 118 having a higher mechanical strength at a processing temperature than the exterior material 116 such that the support frame 117 provides the susceptor 111 with mechanical strength at temperatures that approach or exceed the processing temperature.

Hosokawa states that the support frame 117 may be a solid material, or may take an open structure such as a honeycomb pattern, a wave pattern. The support frame 117 of Hosokawa, however, is not in "a form of a lattice pattern" as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Hosokawa does not disclose or even suggest the "skeletal member" as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, even assuming, *arguendo*, that Nobuyuki and Hosokawa can be combined, Nobuyuki in view of Hosokawa fails to disclose or even suggest the "skeletal member" as recited in claim 1.

Claims 2 and 6-7, dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

Claim 3 has been canceled.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 4-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nobuyuki in view of Hosokawa, and further in view of Shamouilian et al. (USP 6,440,221). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled thus rendering this rejection moot.

Moreover, Shamouilian merely discloses a support 95, having a receiving surface 105, comprising a dielectric member 100 and an electrode 110 inside the dielectric member 100.

Shamouilian states that the dielectric member 100 can also comprise holes 115 extending therethrough for providing heat transfer gas, to the receiving surface 105. The electrode 110 of Shamouilian, however, is not in "a form of a lattice pattern" as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Shamouilian does not affect the patentability of claim 1 as amended.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(c) Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nobuyuki in view of Hosokawa, and further in view of Shamouilian et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10, dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(d) Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nobuyuki in view of Hosokawa, because it claims product by process. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9, dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

New Claims

New claims 11 and 12, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

A favorable determination and allowance of claims 11 and 12 is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (Reg. No. 40,417) at the

telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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